

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Original) A compound comprising a powder comprising an additive system comprising at least one sterically hindered phenol antioxidant; and, an organic processing agent comprising at least one friability reduction agent.
2. - 5. Cancelled
6. (Original) A compound consisting essentially of one or more dried granules consisting essentially of an additive system comprising at least one primarily crystalline sterically hindered phenol.
7. (Original) The compound of claim 6 wherein said dried granules comprise pellets comprising a balanced hardness of at least about 5 lb/in.
8. - 9. Cancelled
10. (Original) The compound of claim 7 wherein said balanced hardness is from about 10 lb/in to about 27 lb/in., based on measurements made using 3 mm diameter pellets.
11. - 23. Cancelled
24. (Original) The compound of claim 7 wherein said pellets comprise a loose bulk density of from about 400 g/l or greater, a Hosogawa Flowability of about 70 or greater, an average diameter (x) of from about 2 millimeters to about 6 millimeters, and an average length of from about 1.5x to about 3x.
25. - 26. Cancelled
27. (Original) The compound of claim 6 comprising agglomerates comprising a loose bulk density of from about 400 g/l or greater and a Hosagawa Flowability of about 70 or greater.
28. (Original) The compound of claim 1, wherein said sterically hindered

phenol antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of:
 octadecyl 3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate;
 tetrakis [methylene(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate)]methane;
 1,3,5-trimethyl-2,4,6-tris-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)benzene;
 1,3,5-tris-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) isocyanurate, and,
 1,3,5-tris-(4-t-butyl-3-hydroxy-2,6-dimethylbenzyl)-1,3,5-triazine-2,4,6-(1H,
 3H, 5H) - trione.

29. -35. Cancelled

36. (Currently amended) A process for manufacturing dried granules that are at least in the form of agglomerates or pellets, said process comprising:
 mixing an organic processing agent comprising an amount of a friability reduction agent with a powder comprising an additive system comprising at least a first sterically hindered phenol antioxidant under conditions that are effective to form a wet paste;
 processing said wet paste to form [said one or more] wet granules in the form of wet agglomerates or wet pellets without melting said sterically hindered phenol antioxidant; and,
 exposing said wet granules to conditions that are effective to remove said organic processing agent from said wet granules but ineffective to melt said sterically hindered phenol antioxidant, thereby producing said [one or more] dried granules.

37. (Currently amended) The process of claim 36 further comprising controlling balanced hardness of said dried granules by adjusting said amount of said friability reduction agent.

38. (Original) The process of claim 36, wherein said friability reduction agent is an alcohol.

39. (Original) The process of claim 37, wherein said friability reduction agent is an alcohol.

40. (Original) The process of claim 39, wherein said alcohol comprises a composition of the formula ROH wherein R is an alkyl group of from 1 to 8 carbon atoms.

41. (Currently amended) The process of claim 39, wherein said alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, and 2-propanol. [isopropanol.]

42. Cancelled

43. (Original) One or more granules consisting essentially of at least one primarily crystalline sterically hindered phenol antioxidant having a melting point of from about 95°C or greater.

44. - 49. Cancelled

50. (Currently Amended) The granules of claim 43 [48] comprising a loose bulk density of from about 400 g/l or greater, an average diameter (x) of from about 1 millimeters to about 10 millimeters, and, where the granules are pellets, an aspect ratio of from about 1 to about 5.

51. Cancelled

53. (Original) The granules of claim 50 wherein said length is from about 1 to about 5 millimeters.

54. Cancelled

55. (Currently Amended) The granules of claim 43 [49] wherein said sterically hindered phenol antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of:
octadecyl 3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate;
tetrakis [methylene(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxyhydrocinnamate)] methane;
1,3,5-trimethyl-2,4,6-tris-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)benzene;
1,3,5-tris-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl) isocyanurate, and,
1,3,5-tris-(4-t-butyl-3-hydroxy-2,6-dimethylbenzyl)-1,3,5-triazine-2,4,6-(1H, 3H, 5H) - trione; and,
thiodiethylenebis-(3,5,-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxy) hydrocinnamate.

56. Cancelled

57. (Currently Amended) The granules of claim 43 [49] wherein said sterically hindered phenol antioxidant is 1,3,5-trimethyl-2,4,6-tris-(3,5-di-t-butyl-4-hydroxybenzyl)benzene.

58. Cancelled

59. (Original) The granules of claim 43 wherein said at least one antioxidant comprises from about 0 to about 80 wt.% of a secondary phosphite antioxidant.

60 - 63. Cancelled

64. (Currently Amended) The granules of claim 43 [42] wherein said additive system comprises at least about 20 wt.% of said at least one sterically hindered phenol antioxidant, and further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of antistatics, antiblocking agents, flame proofing agents, thioesters, pigments, UV absorbers, and light stabilizers.

65. - 66. Cancelled

67. (Original) The granules of claim 59 wherein said additive system comprises at least about 20 wt.% of said at least one sterically hindered phenol antioxidant, and further comprises a material selected from the group consisting of antistatics, antiblocking agents, flame proofing agents, thioesters, pigments, UV absorbers, and light stabilizers.

68. Cancelled

69. (Currently Amended) The granules of any of claim 67 further comprising a material selected from the group consisting of an internal lubricant, an external lubricant, an acid neutralizer, and a metal soap[[],] .

70. - 71. Cancelled

72. (Currently amended) Dried granules [A compound] made according to the process of claim 36.

73. (Currently Amended) Dried granules [A compound] made according to the process of claim 37.

74. (Currently Amended) Dried granules [Granules] made according to the process of claim 38. [42.]

75. (Currently Amended) Dried granules [Granules] made according to the process of claim 41. [43.]

76. (New) A process for manufacturing dried granules that are at least in the form of agglomerates or pellets, said granules made by a process comprising:

- A) mixing (i) an organic processing agent comprising (a) a friability reduction agent or (b) an organic solvent, or (c) both of (a) and (b) with (ii) a powder comprising an additive system comprised of at least a first sterically hindered phenol antioxidant, under conditions that are effective to form a wet paste;
- B) processing said wet paste into at least wet agglomerates or wet pellets without melting any solid component(s) in the agglomerates or pellets; and
- C) exposing said agglomerates or pellets to conditions that are effective to remove said organic processing agent from said agglomerates or pellets and to dry said agglomerates or pellets but ineffective to melt any solid component of the agglomerates or pellets, to thereby produce dried granules in the form of dried agglomerates or dried pellets.

77. (New) The process of claim 76 wherein the processing of said paste in B) is performed by agglomerating said paste with agglomerating equipment.

78. (New) The process of claim 77 wherein the agglomerating is conducted using a paste in which at least about 20 weight percent of the organic processing agent is said friability reduction agent.

79. (New) The process of claim 78 wherein up to about 80 weight percent of the organic processing agent is an organic solvent capable of dissolving at least about 2 g of sterically hindered phenol per 100 mL of such solvent.

80. (New) The process of claim 77 wherein the agglomerating of the paste is performed in a pin agglomerator.

81. (New) The process of claim 80 wherein the agglomerating is conducted using a paste in which at least about 20 weight percent of the organic processing agent is said friability reduction agent.

82. (New) The process of claim 81 wherein up to about 80 weight percent of the organic processing agent is an organic solvent capable of dissolving at least about 2 g of sterically hindered phenol per 100 mL of such solvent.

83. (New) The process of claim 76 wherein the processing of said paste in B) is performed by pelletizing said paste.

84. (New) The process of claim 83 wherein the pelletizing is conducted using a paste in which the organic processing agent is at least one friability reduction agent.

85. (New) The process of claim 83 wherein the pelletizing is conducted using a paste in which the organic processing agent is at least one organic solvent capable of dissolving at least about 2 g of sterically hindered phenol per 100 mL of such solvent.

86. (New) The process of claim 83 wherein the pelletizing is conducted using a paste in which the organic processing agent is a mixture of at least one friability reduction agent and at least one organic solvent capable of dissolving at least about 2 g of sterically hindered phenol per 100 mL of such solvent.

87. (New) The process of any of claims 83-86 wherein the pelletizing is conducted using a pellet press equipped with a die plate.

88. (New) The process of any of claims 76-86 wherein said organic processing agent and said powder are mixed in proportions in the range of (a) about 3 parts by weight of processing agent to about 97 parts by weight of powder, to (b) about 20 parts by weight of processing agent to about 80 parts by weight of powder.

89. (New) The process of any of claims 76-84 or 86 wherein said friability reduction agent comprises methanol, ethanol, or 2-propanol.

90. (New) The process of any of claims 76-83, 86 or 87 wherein said solvent consists essentially of solvent selected from the group consisting of methylene chloride, chloroform, toluene, acetone, methyl ethyl ketone, xylene, cyclohexane, methylcyclohexane, hexane, and combinations thereof.